

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1.(Currently Amended) Apparatus for the automated processing of meat, comprising a transport element (11) for transporting the meat, a cutting element (12) for cutting and/or trimming the meat, a counter-surface (13) for the cutting element (12) and at least one control and/or regulating apparatus, which is in functional connection with the cutting element (12), characterised characterized in that arranged in the area of the cutting element (12) is a threading element (14), which is bent in respect of the counter-surface in the transport plane E₁ of the meat.

2.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that the threading element (14) is an integral component of the counter-surface (13).

3.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterised characterized in that the threading element (14) is constructed as an extension of the counter-surface (13).

4.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterised characterized in that the threading element (14) is a spatula-like plate element and

has an elongated shape, rounded at the free end, is bent in respect of the counter-surface (13) in the transport plane E₁ of the meat.

5.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the plate element is chamfered at least on the side of facing the meat. threading element (14) is a spatula-like plate element and has an elongated shape, rounded at the free end (27).

6.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 51, characterised characterized in that a unit consisting of counter-surface and the threading element is constructed as swivellable. the plate element is chamfered at least on the side facing the meat.

7.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that a unit consisting of counter-surface (13) and threading element (14) is is swivellable about at least one rotational axis constructed as swivellable.

8.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 76, characterised in that the unit consisting of counter-surface (13) and threading element (14) is swivellable movable in a linear direction. about at least one rotational axis (20, 25).

9.(Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, characterised in that a deflector element (30) is arranged on the side of the counter-surface opposite the

~~threading element, the unit consisting of counter surface (13) and threading element (14) is movable in a linear direction.~~

10.(Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that a deflector element (30) is arranged on the side of the counter-surface (13) opposite the threading element (14). Method for the automated processing of meat, comprising the steps:~~

- transporting the meat into the area of a cutting element,
- running the meat up against a counter-surface before the meat reaches the cutting element,
- cutting and/or trimming the meat by means of the cutting element and
- removing the meat,

characterized in that the meat is threaded by a threading element before running up against the counter-surface, wherein the meat is at least partially lifted from the side and then guided on to the counter-surface.

11. – 12. (Cancelled)